MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 FEBRUARY 1983

Israel

The Knesset ratified Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's shift from the Defense Ministry to minister without portfolio by a 61-56 vote, Jerusalem radio announced. Earlier, the radio noted that Sharon does not intend to ask Prime Minister Menahem Begin to assign him any specific job or function. In a meeting with a European Parliament delegation, Begin said that personnel changes in the Cabinet would not influence the peace process, the radio reported. The prime minister stressed that Israel would not stop building settlements in the territories, would never accept the notion of a Palestinian state, and would not negotiate with the PLO. Affirming that the Camp David accords are the only path for negotiations in the Middle East, Begin attacked the Reagan plan and criticized the European Parliament's decision to support it, the radio added.

In interviews with Jerusalem television and radio, Defense Minister-designate Moshe Arens said there is "quite a good chance" of reaching an agreement with the Lebanese on relations. He said that talks could include Israel's willingness to withdraw from Lebanon, adding that it is "not at all clear" whether the Syrians will be prepared to evacuate Lebanon at the same time. Asked whether he regards U.S. involvement in the Lebanese negotiations positively, Arens reaffirmed U.S.-Israeli common goals and said the United States can help but that does not mean it will always help. He reiterated support for Begin's policy and denied that Sharon's presence in the Cabinet presented any difficulty.

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Talks -- Progress was made during the 14 February subcommittee talks in Khaldah, Jerusalem radio reported citing Israeli sources. The subcommittees completed drafting the main clauses on ending the state of war but differences remained over early warning stations and the future of UNIFIL troops in the security areas, the sources added. A statement by the Lebanese Information Ministry broadcast by Beirut radio announced that the subcommittee meetings will resume on 17 February in Netanya.

Military, Security Situation -- Leader of the "free Lebanon army" Major Sa'd Haddad has established a garrison in Sidon to "restructure" his army, AFP reported. Haddad declared that the borders of the "free Lebanon" state now extend from An-Naqurah to Sidon and that the garrison in Sidon means that the "free Lebanon army" has assumed responsibility for southern Lebanon's security, according to AFP. An earlier Jerusalem radio report said Haddad moved tanks and armored troop carriers into Sidon because he wanted to help the Lebanese Government extend its authority over the whole country.

President Amin al-Jumayyil deployed three Lebanese Army brigades in the greater Beirut area on 15 February, Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The president emphasized that the army is the party of the people and comprises all factions. Al-Jumayyil added that the army must carry out its duty because Lebanon alone can fend for itself, the radio noted. Earlier, an additional 160 French marines for the multinational force arrived in Beirut.

Arab-UK Relations

The Arab seven-member committee's visit to London may be officially canceled because of the British Government's "stubborn" position and its refusal to accept a PLO representative within the committee, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing highly placed sources in Riyadh. The sources did not rule out the possibility of collective Arab sanctions against Britain in the near future, especially in the economic field, the radio added.

Palestine National Council Session

Addressing the opening session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers, PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum declared that the Reagan peace proposal neither meets the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people nor forms a clear basis for resolving the Palestine question because it disregards both the right to self-determination and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Al-Fahum declared the PLO's "open rejection" of America's peace illusions based on the Camp David accords and asked the United States "to prove its credibility."

In another speech broadcast by Algiers radio, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated that the "choice" to establish a confederation with Jordan is a genuine expression of the PLO's belief in comprehensive Arab unity. He added that the PLO rejects anything that harms the national rights of the Palestinian people and that the joint Palestinian-Lebanese stand against the United States is especially important because of the challenges presented by "U.S. imperialism and Zionism." The PLO leader said armed struggle goes hand in hand with political struggle; the United States must not forget that Lebanon "will not be the last war."

Cheysson Tour

During a Baghdad news conference French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson said France will redouble its efforts at the United Nations to end the Gulf war, INA reported. Cheysson noted that French-Iraqi cooperation is an important factor for the attainment of peace and affirmed that French companies will continue to honor their contracts in Iraq. Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz at the same news conference declared that Iraq can continue to defend its territory without French military assistance, INA added. Later, Cheysson arrived in Damascus and met with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, according to Damascus television. A French diplomatic source cited by Radio Monte Carlo disclosed that French-Syrian talks will focus on Iraqi- Syrian relations, the closure of the Iraqi pipelines via Syria to the Mediterranean, and the situation in Lebanon.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak and Sudan's President Ja'far Numayri held talks in Aswan on the results of integration efforts, the situation in Lebanon, and the Iraq-Iran conflict, MENA reported.

Syria

A joint statement issued in Damascus on the 9-13 February talks between the Ba'th Party and a Cuban Communist Party delegation stressed the desire to promote bilateral relations and announced the signing of a new agreement on cooperation between the two parties, SANA reported.

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MILITARY DELEGATION RETURNS FROM USSR 8 FEBRUARY

LD092226 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] Brigadier General Mohammad Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and army political affairs head, and members of the Afghan military delegation [passage indistinct] after a friendly and official visit to the USSR, returned home yesterday.

The delegation was welcomed at Kabul Airport by members of the party Central Committee and by a number of army generals and officers.

OFFICIALS MEET WITH CUBAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

LD121638 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Shah Mohammad Dost this afternoon held discussions with Dr Pelegrin Torras, Cuban deputy foreign minister, in the [words indistinct] and atmosphere of mutual understanding on the relevant topics of the agenda of the summit of the leaders of nonaligned states and governments, which will be held in New Delhi. In this meeting, Serwar Yurish and Sakhi Daneshjo, deputy foreign ministers; the Afghan ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations; and Penado Casanova, Cuban ambassador in Kabul, also were present.

Serwar Yurish, deputy minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Dr Pelegrin Torras also this morning held discussions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on topics of mutual interest in a fraternal atmosphere.

According to another report, the Cuban deputy foreign minister and his accompanying delegation took part in a luncheon at the Kabul Intercontinental Hotel given in their honor by the deputy foreign minister.

14 February Meetings

LD150750 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Shah Mohammad Dost gave a luncheon today in honor of Dr Pelegrin Torras, deputy foreign minister of Cuba, in the reception hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Deputy ministers and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry, members of the entourage accompanying the deputy foreign minister of Cuba, and the ambassador and members of the Cuban Embassy in Kabul took part in the lunch.

According to another report, the Cuban deputy foreign minister this morning met with Serwar Yurish, deputy minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed topics of mutual interest in a friendly atmosphere.

According to a third report, Feda Mohammad Dehneshin, chairman of the Afghan-Cuba Friendship Society, this afternoon met with Dr Pelegrin Torras and spoke with him about subjects of mutual interest.

KESHTMAND 7 FEB SPEECH AT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

LD111027 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, chaired the general session of the DRA Council of Ministers held on 7 February in the Revolutionary Council headquarters.

At the start of the session, Soltan Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers, delivered his opening speech: [begin recording] Dear comrades: At today's meeting, we are again going to discuss some of the important issues of the socioeconomic life of the country and will make the necessary decisions. Apparently, only raising issues and making specific decisions are not sufficient. What is vitally important [word indistinct] that the decisions, as a whole, be implemented carefully and on time. However, it must be openly stated that in some ministries and government departments, there has unfortunately not been a responsible approach toward resolutions and decisions.

Bureaucracy, excuses, and difficulties are being used to refrain from implementing decisions properly and in a timely manner.

Comrades, [passage indistinct] a large number of officials in our governemnt departments are themselves not maintaining discipline nor following progressive specific norms, nor cooperating [words indistinct].

Comrades, of course, we all believe this situation is not in harmony with the circumstances of the new system and revolutionary conditions in the country. Progress and the strengthening of revolutionary processes in the country demand devotion [words indistinct], innovation, persistence, organization, love, and unlimited interest [word indistinct] for the proper and speedy accomplishment of tasks.

We are not dutybound to enumerate only difficulties [words indistinct].

Problems and difficulties, stemming from [words indistinct] as well as from the continuation of the undeclared and imposed war by imperialism and reaction, led by U.S. imperialism in collaboration with Chinese hegemonists, are facing us. However, we have resolutely decided to overcome these problems and to end the imperialist and reactionary interference, instigations, and aggression and the savage crimes of the counterrevolutionaries and to build the pillars [words indistinct] of the new society and new life in our beloved homeland, revolutionary and democratic Afghanistan. We will become victorious by following this path in which we believe and are determined to achieve victory, and we rely on the people's power. We have international friends, first of all, the international solidarity and support of the great USSR. [end recording]

DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR PNC SESSION IN ALGERIA

LD111913 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] Brigadier General [as heard] Gol Aqa, vice president of the Revolutionary Council Presidium, heading a delegation, today left for Algeria to attend the 16th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC], which will be held in Algeria tomorrow and the day after.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul Airport by members of the PDPA Central Committee, representatives of the International Relations Department of the PDPA Central Committee and the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the charge d'affairs of the PLO office in Kabul.

REPORT ON 14 FEB VIOLENCE AT DHAKA UNIVERSITY

BK150535 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Text] The government has announced a series of measures to halt growing (?of an) uncalculated student violence aimed at disrupting peace and tranquillity in Dhaka, adversely affecting the normal life of the peace-loving people. A press note issued yesterday evening said that Dhaka University has been closed sine die with immediate effect. All residential halls are to be vacated by students by 0900 this morning. The press note said orders relating to the prohibition of meetings, processions, assembly, and strike are to be strictly (?enforced). Curfew hours in the Dhaka University area will be from 1800-0500 and in the rest of Dhaka metropolitan area from 2200-0500.

The press note mentioned the events leading up to violence in the vicinity of the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday. The so-called Students' Action Committee -- a conglomerate of student wings of 14 political parties -- had announced that they would besiege the Secretariat in protest against the government policies. At 1100, they gathered in the premises of the Dhaka University and the speakers made inflammatory speeches in defiance of martial law urging the students to take the law in their own hands.

On the instigation of these professional agitators, misnamed as student leaders, the students came out in a procession -- which again is prohibited by martial law. Raising slogans against the government, they approached the Secretariat in a body and were stopped by the police near the old high court-Curzon Hall junction. The unruly crowd started heavy brick batting at the police on duty and tried to break through the police cordon. The police, who were only armed with [word indistinct] and cane shields, were in danger of being overwhelmed by sheer numbers and resorted to using water hoses to disperse the crowd. When that failed, the police resorted to tear gas and dispersed the crowd which then spread into various apparently well-organized and [words indistinct] groups who made their way into the old high court, the Curzon Hall, the Press Club and the Shishu [children's] Academy. At Shishu Academy, a few hundred students beat up young children and the police. After 15 minutes, they regrouped and resumed their violent attacks coming in wave upon wave at the police party. They set two parked cars on fire, smashed windows and glasspanes of nearby government buildings, set a government office on fire, damaged light and electric poles, road [word indistinct] decorations and uprooted roadside iron railings. Police again had to resort to lathi [baton] charges and disperse the violent crowds of students. One group of demonstrators tried to cross the old town near the old Phulbaria railway station but was stopped near the railway hospital and turned back. More government property was then damaged including the burning of seven motor vehicles, mostly buses.

It may be mentioned that the police exercised the utmost restraint and had to exercise the right of self-defense in the face of extreme provocation. The press note said the students (?attacked) and gouged out the eyes of a policeman and injured about 50 others with brickbats, iron rods, and bamboo shafts. In the melee unfortunately, one person received a serious nerve injury and later succumbed in the hospital. He was identified as (Zainul Abedin), son of (Muzaffar Chowdhury) of South Dalai of (Chakchil) police station. He read up to class six and was a worker in the electric shop. The chief martial law administrator yesterday afternoon visited the injured students and policemen in the hospital.

The press note said there appeared to be an organized plan of willful violence hatched by political elements on the pretext of opposing the government policies which left a trail of violence in recent weeks in Dhaka. It pointed to the political complicity by citing the presence of some well-known political leaders at the students' meetings organized yesterday afternoon in the university campus.

COMMITTEE TO VIEW EDUCATION REFORM PROPOSALS

BK140441 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] The government has announced the immediate setting up of an education committee to undertake the task of (?addressing) the response from the public to the questionnaire regarding the proposed educational policies. The decision was taken last night at a Cabinet meeting presided over by the chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad. The committee will be headed by the vice chancellor of a university with representation from all (?tiers) of education from the primary to the university level. Meanwhile, the last date for filling out the questionnaire on (?recasting and reform of the education system has been extended by 14 days up to the 28th of this month. The questionnaire was due to have been filed by the members of public by today.

DOHA DEPARTS FOR INDONESIA, THAILAND 14 FEB

BK140222 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr A.R. Shamsud Doha, left Dhaka last night for Jakarta on an official visit to Indonesia beginning today. From Jakarta, the foreign minister will go to beginning today. From Jakarta, the foreign minister will go to Bangkok on Wednesday on a 2-day official visit to Thailand. In both the countries, the foreign minister will hold talks on promotion of bilateral cooperation and also on regional issues.

80 LEADERS EXPECTED TO ATTEND NONALIGNED SUMMIT

BK150437 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] The New Delhi nonaligned summit next month will be the first occasion when so many kings, presidents, prime ministers, andother dignataries will assemble in the capital for a week. About 80 heads of state or governments are expected to attend the meeting; 65 have already accepted Prime Minister Gandhi's invitation to attend the conference.

The summit begins on the 7th of next month when the Cuban president will invite Mrs Gandhi to take over the chairmanship of the nonaligned summit.

The secretary general designate of the conference, Natwar Singh; the information adviser to the prime minister, Sharda Prasad; and S.V. Lal, secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting gave details to newsmen about the arrangements being made for the conference. There will be about 4,000 delegates and nearly a thousand media men to cover the summit. They said despite the short notice at which the summit is being held in New Delhi, all arrangements have been made and finishing touches are being given to the conference venue and hotels where the delegates will stay.

The nonaligned nations are determined to ensure that the coming summit is a big success. This is the impression gained by a PTI correspondent after he visited some of the Latin American and Caribbean countries. He held talks with representatives of the nonaligned countries at the United Nations. Government leaders and officials of these countries told him that under India's leadership the Nonaligned Movement will be further strengthened.

'BOMB-LIKE OBJECT' HURLED AT U.S. EMBASSY 11 FEB

BK121556 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 12 Feb 83

[Text] According to police, a portion of the American Embassy in New Delhi was damaged when a bomb-like object was hurled at the embassy last evening. No one was injured in the incident.

TWO MINISTERS RESIGN; CABINET RESHUFFLED

BK150456 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Text] The communications minister, Mr A.P. Sharma, and the civil supplies minister, Mr Bhishma Narain Singh, have resigned. The president, Giani Zail Singh, has accepted their resignations from the central Cabinet.

Mr N.K.P. Salve has been appointed the minister of state for steel and mines with independent charge. Mr H.K.L Bhagat will be the new minister of state for information and broadcasting. He will be the minister of state for parliamentary affairs also. The commerce minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, will also temporarily hold the charge of the Ministry of Supplies. Mr Gadgil will look after the Ministry of Communications while Mr Khurshid Alam Khan will be the minister of state for tourism and civil aviation. Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad will be the minister of state for food and civil supplies and Mrs Ramdulari Singh will be the minister of state for commerce. Mr Mohammad Usman Arif will be the deputy minister of works and housing.

Mr A.P. Sharma is understood to have been appointed the governor of Punjab.

'MODERATE TO HEAVY' POLLING REPORTED IN ASSAM

BK141625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] In Assam, polling in the 61 assembly and 1 Lok Sabha constituency was reported to be moderate to heavy today. In some places, it was relatively poor. Polling also took place for segments of 10 other Lok Sabha seats in the first stage of elections in the state.

The adviser to the governor of Assam, Mr R.V. Subramaniam, told our special correspondent Prem Chand Arya in Dispur this evening that the response from the people was good.

Mr Subramaniam said in over 90 percent of the polling centers voting was incident free. There were stray instances of some micreants preventing voters from coming to polling booths. Police had to take action in three or four cases to disperse mobs intimidating the voters. At Digboi in Dibrugarh District, where police had to open fire to disperse an unruly mob, one person was killed. There were also two attempts to snatch ballot boxes and polling material. The situation was brought under control.

The police also had to open fire at two places to disperse violent mobs in which two people were killed. Some clashes between pro and anti election groups have been reported from Darrang District.

About the trend of voting, the adviser to the governor said in some cases the polling was moderate; in several cases heavy and brisk; but in certain areas, having regard to the local condition, the voting was relatively poor.

Mr Subramaniam said that generally the law and order situation has been fully under control.

For the next two rounds of polling on Thursday and Sunday, he said elaborate arrangements have been made for the security of the voters and also the polling personnel. He expressed confidence that voting in the next phase will also go on smoothly.

Mr Subaramaniam described the response of the people to today's poll as satisfactory.

The All India Radio reporting team, which visited a number of polling booths in Dispur constituency, found that at several places women voters were helped by police escorts. In certain constituencies, in some polling booths, there were queues of people. Although most shops were closed in Gauhati proper, shops were found open in some of the localities.

Our special correspondent reports that people appeared moving around with confidence and a sense of security due to a number of steps taken by the state administration to ensure peace and order.

Situation Remains 'Under Control'

BK150322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Text] In Assam, following the first round of polling to 61 assembly constituencies and autonomous Lok Sabha seat yesterday, the law and order situation has remained under control. The state chief secretary, Ramesh Chandra, told All India Radio Gauhati correspondent this morning that no untoward incident has been reported from any part of the state during the night.

The situation in Gohpur area in Darrang District, where tension prevailed following group clashes, is also under control. The adviser to the governor, R.V. Subramaniam, said that a high-level team has been constituted to provide adequate relief to those affected by disturbances in the area. (Mr Saran Singh), another adviser to the governor, visited Gohpur yesterday to make an on-the-spot study of the situation and to ensure speedy relief to the affected. Several deaths and incidents of burning of houses have been reported from Gohpur area. Details are being ascertained.

OPPOSITION DEMANDS COUNTERMANDING ASSAM ROLL

BK150601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Chief Election Commissioner R.K. Tirvedi has reiterated that the Election Commission has no option but to go by the provisions of law for holding the poll in Assam before the deadline of the 19th of March this year. Trivedi was speaking to a delegation of the Bharatiya Janata Party led by Atal Behari Vajpayee which met him in New Delhi today. They demanded that the Assam elections be countermanded. Trivedi told them that once the election process has started, adjournment is possible only on the recommendation of the returning officers of the constituencies or the presiding officers. In such cases, the commission can only extend the date of completion of the election, but not beyond the 19th of next month.

Another delegation of the Delhi University Students Union also met the chief election commissioner today and demanded countermanding of the Assam polls.

MEGHALAYA ELECTION CAMPAIGN 'PEACEFUL SO FAR'

BK150427 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Text] In Meghalaya, electioneering comes to an end this afternoon. An official spokesman said in Shillong yesterday that no complaints have been received from any of the contesting parties or candidates and the election campaign has been peaceful so far. The spokesman said that the state has adequate security forces at its disposal for conducting elections in an orderly manner. He said the center has met in full the state's demand for adequate security forces. The Assam Government has also offered full cooperation in the areas bordering the state. Polling to the 60-member state assembly the Shillong Lok Sabha constituency will be held on Thursday.

MINISTER ON 'ATOMIC MISSILES' IN AFGHANISTAN

BK140850 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Sharifuddin Pirzada, minister for law and parliamentary affairs, told the Federal Advisory Council today that the government is fully aware of and cautious about its duties and affairs related to security. He was speaking on an adjournment motion, on which he wanted to move, by (Mumtaz Ahmed Tair) related to press reports that the Soviet Union had installed atomic missiles in Afghanistan. He said the government has no proof to confirm these press reports that the Soviet Union has installed atomic missiles. However, about 100,000 Soviet forces are present in Afghanistan. They are in possession of a large quantity of arms which certainly threaten the security of the region, he said. He referred to the sincere efforts being made by the Pakistani Government at the international level for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and for finding a political solution to the problem. After the clarification by the law minister, the motion was not pressed.

INQUIRY ORDERED INTO WOMEN'S CLASH WITH POLICE

BK131119 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] The Advisory Council was told this morning that the provincial government has ordered an immediate inquiry into the incident involving women at Lahore yesterday and that action would be taken against those who are found guilty of commiting excesses. This assurance was given by Interior Minister Mahmud A. Haroon while speaking on an adjournment motion filed by different members including women members regarding the incident. The interior minister also assured the house on behalf of the president and the government that the honor and prestige of the women would be fully protected. On his assurance, female members withdrew their adjournment motion while the remaining motions were declared against the order. Another adjournment motion was moved by (Nawabzada Iftikhar Ahmad Ansari) whose contention was that the procession had been prompted by elements against the enforcement of the Islamic system in the country. The motion however was ruled out on technical grounds.

'TENSION REMOVED' FROM QAID I-AZAM UNIVERSITY

BK150430 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Feb 83

[Text] It has been officially stated in Islamabad that the tension prevailing between two major groups in the Qaid-i-Azam University has been removed by the efforts of the university authorities and the local administration. It also has been stated that the students peacefully returned to their hostels and homes.

YAQUB KHAN LEAVES FOR JORDAN, IRAQ 14 FEB

BK140340 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Karachi this morning on a 4-day official visit to Jordan and Iraq.

SRI LANKA

17 MP'S, INCLUDING HEALTH MINISTER, RESIGN

BK101430 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The speaker, Al-Haj Bakeer Markar, informed the Parliament this afternoon that 17 members of Parliament, including a minister, six deputy ministers and two district ministers, have resigned their seats. The minister, Dr Ranjit Attapattu, who was member of Parliament from Bellatta, has also resigned from his office as minister of health.

The six deputy ministers were: (Srinidasa) Abeywickrema -- deputy minister of agricultural development and research and MP for Akmeemana; Edwin Tilakaratne -- deputy minister of Parliament affairs and sports and MP for Ratgama; Premaratna Gunasekera -- deputy minister of private omnibus transport and MP for Maharagama; (Neval Guneratne), one of the deputy ministers for defense and MP for (Alia Koda); Haris Wanigasekera -- deputy minister of rural development and MP for Katmana; and V.L. Vijemanne -- deputy minister of (?fruit) plantation and MP for Kalutara.

The district minister for Hambantota and MP for Tissamaharama, Mr P.M.B. Cyril, and the district minister for Gampaha and MP for Mahara, Tudor Gunasekara, have also resigned.

MP for (Kalawanna Saraf Mutus Vijaymas) and second MP for Nurwar Eliya Maskeliya, Aruna Bandaranaike (?asked) who now holds the position of minister of finance. In reply, Prime Minister R. Premadasa said that the president was at present functioning as minister of finance.

Parilament meets again on the 24th of this month.

HAMEED HOLDS TALKS WITH IRAN'S VELAYATI

BK101159 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Feb 83

[Text] The foreign minister of Iran, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and the vice minister of economic affairs, Mr (Khazinpos), have held wide-ranging talks on the forthcoming nonaligned summit as well as on economic cooperation and other bilateral matters with Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed in Colombo.

The foreign ministers of Sri Lanka and Iran were of the view that greater economic cooperation between the two countries would benefit their people greatly. There is a great imbalance in the trade between the two countries, Sri Lanka making purchases from Iran worth $200 million while exporting only $12 million worth of goods. Iran, which is purchasing most of her goods from the West, is keen on diversifying and expanding trade with Sri Lanka. With regard to imports from Sri Lanka, Iran showed interest in tea, rubber, cotton textiles, synthetic yarn, spices, ceramics, coconut oil, bicycles, canvass, and so forth.

The Iranian delegation also expressed interest in investment in Sri Lanka and obtained particulars of investment protection guarantees and investment incentives. They were particularly interested in joint ventures with Sri Lanka.

KHOMEYNI 11 FEBRUARY SPEECH TO NATION

LD111857 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1123 GMT 11 Feb 83

[Speech to the nation by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, read by Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni at Tehran University on 11 February -- recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

On the eve of the fifth anniversary of the triumph of truth over falsehood and of the party of God over satanic parties, I express my gratitude and servitude to the holy threshold [as heard] of the Almighty God, from whom we all come and to whom we all return and whose grace and bounty is the source of our ever-increasing victories. And I express my sincere thanks to the holy threshold of the great deputy of God [the hidden imam] and the remnant of God upon the earth -- may our souls be sacrificed at his feet -- who is t intermediary for the grace and bounty of Almighty God and whose prayers are the succour of the followers of his illustrious ancestor [Muhammad] -- may God's greetings be upon him and his kin. I express my boundless congratulations and gratitude to the noble and committed people of the Iranian nation who ever since the beginning of the movement to the great Islamic Revolution, since the revolution to victory, and since the day of victory to the present, have generously and courageously participated with all their heart and soul in all the scenes of the revolution, who have continued to defend beloved Islam and their country, and to whom we and others are indebted. Were it not for their steadfastness there would have been no revolution, and such a great victory would not have been achieved by Islam and the Islamic country.

Praise be to God for His bounty, who with His unseen assistance wrought such a divine transformation in this wronged and defenseless nation, and who with His grace and through his eternal might made them victorious over the enemies of Islam and humanity. Most humbly we beg at His sacred threshold to continue this bounty and assistance to this nation and bestow it on all Muslims and oppressed people of the world. Boundless greetings and praise on the beloved and brave fighters of the Armed Forces, the guards, the mobilization, the police, the committees, the Gendarmerie, the esteemed tribes, and other armed forces who with their powerful hands, which are supported by divine assistance, delivered such a blow to the vile face of the Saddamists and their supporters that the Aflaqite Ba'thist Party, that they cannot recover from it, although they clutch at every straw.

The ill-fated commander of Qadisiyyah [Saddam Husayn] has stretched out a begging hand in every direction and has pinned his hope on bankrupt criminals in order to continue for a few more days his crimes against the wronged Iraqi nation, the Arab and non-Arab Muslims of Iran and the region. He has become so powerless and desperate that in utter disgrace he has blotted out all his empty claims and has become a sincere friend of Israel, although until recently he was claiming to be its enemy; and he longs for dependence on America, although he claimed to have severed his links with it. With flattery and dejection he has turned his avaricious eyes toward those ministates which depend on America and whose pockets he emptied through bullying, intimidation, and shouting. He pinned his hopes for his salavation on Husni, Hassan, Husayn, Numayri, and other criminals of history, who are themselves bankrupt. In order to save this desperate sinking man, all the world mass media have mounted a unanimous propaganda campaign, whose falsity has now become clear to all. They have done this in order to veil for a few more days the world-illuminating sun of Islam, although they know well that they will be unable to prevent with their satanic tricks this tumultuous torrent of divine grace which has been brought about in order to save the Muslims and all the deprived and oppressed people of the world. But they cannot extinguish this sun of the firmament of spirituality with their false propaganda.

It is hoped that the divine promise concerning assistance for the oppressed people will be implemented in the near future, that the powerful hand of Almighty God will be extended as soon as possible in the deprived nations, and that the same divine transformation which has taken place in the Iranian nation will also be manifested in all the nations and groups with the will of Almighty God, so that the criminals' power over the oppressed people of the world may be eliminated, and so that the wronged people may achieve their lost rights. Here it is necessary to issue a few reminders to the esteemed brothers and sisters, although -- thanks be to God -- they are familiar with the issues of the age and of Islam:

1. I repeat this important point which I have often mentioned before: That is, the beloved struggling nation, especially the heroic forces who are fighting in the path of God, should bear in mind that being overcome by pride as a result of the victories is a great calamity which Satan instills in the servants of God in order to lead them astray from the path of truth and, consequently, to weaken the servants of God in their attempts to achieve divine aims. If, God forbid, this satanic feeling prevails on the fronts it will halt the victories; and even as a result of the wiles of Satan, it might lead to defeat. This destructive feeling happens when a man has become negligent concerning himself and God, when he regards the strength and the victories as his own, and when he forgets the basic source of those victories who is in charge of everything and to whom belongs all power, might, and strength.

The beloved nation and the fighting forces have felt repeatedly during the revolution and this war that, were it not for divine assistance and for His special blessings, we would have never possessed the strength to withstand a satanic regime armed to the teeth, which was dependent upon world powers. However, because the nation, as a result of a divine transformation, staged an Islamic revolution based on spirituality, it succeeded in destroying that great power of the region. In this unequal war, despite all the weapons and unlimited assistance of the East, the West and the region to Iraq, it succeeded in achieving so many amazing successes for Islam and Iran. We should not forget great victories such as that at Khorramshahr, when the enemy was waiting in very strong fortifications with all the necessary equipment and vast numbers. Nevertheless several of the heroic and committed forces of Islam rushed toward them from the open desert. God instilled such fear and fright in the enemy that after thousands of military personnel were captured and a vast amount of booty was seized, that the rest of the enemy thugs fled the scene in utter disgrace and surrendered the cities. Our beloved forces should not believe that this miraculous victory was possible except by divine assistance. Their pride consists of the fact that we are under the grace of God Almighty; we possess nothing of ourselves, all that we possess belongs to God and we should use it in His path. In this case God will continue His assistance, and you will continue your heroic deeds and the honorable war for the sake of defending Islam and the Islamic homeland. God willing, you will achieve final victory.

2. Now that, thank God, Iran enjoys relative calm and order and is rid of the rebels -- these false claimants and false supporters of the nation and the people -- who have revealed their filthy faces and joined the enemies of Islam and their associates and masters, the great and committed Islamic nation is obliged to rise with all its might to reconstruct and cope with the shortcomings which are inherent in any revolution. These shortcomings in the Iranian Revolution resulted in less harm and more benefits, bearing in mind that ours was a revolution based on the unfathomable might of God and the supreme efforts of all levels of the great nation.

We must waste no time in making use of the opportunity and must take action to further Islamicize the country in all its dimensions, in all its orders, including its tripartite estates, which form the foundation of the system as well as the theological seminaries and universities, which form the foundation of our culture, and the military and security and other armed forces, which form the foundation of our security, and the bazaar tradesmen, agricultural workers, and other workers, each of which constitutes an important unit in the country's economy. It goes without saying that if the nation fails to rise and strive within the framework of this important matter with its far-reaching dimensions which embrace the fate of the nation and Islam, then the sublime goals of Islam will not be realized. It is only through solidarity and everyone's efforts and through the powerful support of God Almighty that our efforts, God willing, will bear fruit. As for the nature of the help:

A. The judiciary is today in urgent need of learned, virtuous, and scholarly individuals in order to cope with religious judgment. Consequently all religious seminaries, anywhere, particularly the large seminaries, must consider this issue as a religious and important necessity. Toward this important Islamic goal, they must call on the available ulema in the seminaries and the provinces. All the grand ulema are aware that judgment is an extremely important matter: a matter which under the satanic regimes was entrusted to individuals, most of whom were incompetent. Under the former regime we had every excuse, for competent individuals were unacceptable for any position, let alone religious judgment. However, today, when Islamic judgment is to be administered, there is no longer any excuse. So all qualified individuals must adhere to this principle as much as possible: they should also guide others and mobilize them. The esteemed teaching staffs in various seminaries, the grand ulema and the great mojtaheds should also make use of, discuss, and teach what used to be referred to as esoteric books, because they were (?banned) from being discussed in religious seminaries because they were a source of information. These books, like the book on judgment, martyrdom, retribution, and [word indistinct] must be taught to prevent our being plagued with the shortage of qualified individuals, as we are today.

It is hoped that great care will be devoted to this matter for the sake of God Almighty, and the question of judgment, being one of the difficulties faced by the Islamic Republic today, will be settled through the kindness of grand religious sources and the grand ulema. It is also hoped that the judicial council will make vigorous efforts to formulate laws concerning judgment, with the esteemed Majlis giving priority to approving these religious laws, so that an Islamic climate may be created in the country.

B. The esteemed Majlis, leading all other institutions, while enjoying the services of learned, thinking, and educated individuals, would do better to call on the services of committed friends and theoreticians in the various Majlis committees when necessary, so that by exchanging views and ideas the tasks in hand may be handled more speedily and more specifically. Furthermore, committed and religious experts should also be consulted when delving into various topics concerned with Islamic secondary decrees. Thus everything will be fairly taken care of. It is also to be stressed that there is no difference between the rejection of secondary decrees, after they had been identified by the traditionalists, and the rejection of primary decrees, for both are considered God's decrees. Moreover, there is no connection between the secondary decrees and the implementation of the vice regent of jurisconsult. After a Majlis vote and approval by the Guardian Council, no source is authorized to reject them. Consequently, the government must take steps regardless to implement them.

Having a two-thirds Majlis approval -- a Majlis encompassing many grand ulema, mojtaheds, thinkers and individuals committed to Islam -- on traditional topics, topics to be identified by traditions, and by means of consulting religious reasoning by experts -- something which, without stronger reasoning, if opposed would be considered as contrary to the methods pursued by the wise, should any change in the primary decrees be witnessed by expressing doubts on the matter, then it would be considered as contrary to the path pursued by the wise. [sentence as heard]

C. The Government of the Islamic Republic, being in charge of running the country and being obliged to take appropriate action against any occurrence, is unable to cope with the difficulties in the present circumstances unless it enjoys the nation's assistance. It is in need of help in order to run the republic's institutions, defending the country against invading enemies and dealing with problems caused by the war, problems of immense dimensions. As it is a question of defending the country's population and property and of safeguarding Islam, it is thus imperative for everyone to provide as much help as possible to cope with the threat of foreigners' invasion against Islam and the Muslims. This is a duty which concerns mainly the affluent and the rich and then the middle class, according to their situation, rather than the poor and the deprived class whose incomes just enable them to make ends meet, although this particular class has rendered more services than all other classes.

I express my appreciation and gratitude to all my compatriots for their participation in the arena since the very first day of the revolution. I pray to God Almighty to grant us with His favor to be more ready to participate in the arena. As for the esteemed government, it should take care and bear in mind that it enjoys a special peculiarity, apart from the divine duty applying to the entire nation; this divine duty applies more to the government and others running the country. The government is expected to continue its efforts in all aspects to arrange all matters. As for the present defensive war, which enjoys top priority, which the committed nation considers a duty to help with, which the government is doing everything it can to cope with, it ought to be stressed that it is just as important to refer to and to reiterate important issues. The government must daily expand its help to the battlefronts, so that our defensive program is given top priority until our final victory, God willing.

D. Thank God, the Islamic Armed Forces, in defending Islam and the dear homeland, have since the beginning of the rebels' invasion devotedly smashed the enemy's satanic forces, by giving their own blood and lives and the love of God Almighty. The Armed Forces have continued their heroic battle in each stage, emerging stronger for the next, more committed for the next stage. All of us as well as the Islamic homeland are indebted to them; for had it not been for their spiritual and divine strength no one knows what fate would have had in store for our country in the face of so many enemies and so much aid by big and small powers. As for our nation, our fighting and committed nation, this nation throughout the revolution and the imposed war spared no effort to help in an outstanding manner at the frontlines as well as in the sectors behind the frontlines. Actually, one of the cornerstones of the victory has been the nation's participation in all the arenas of the country, particularly the battlefront. Indeed, this exemplary nation enjoys great value before God Almighty. It is thus hoped that such aid will increase in volume in order to protect Islam and the Islamic homeland. Thank God, this is being done, just as the government's volume of expenditure is daily increasing.

At a time when the presence in and aid by the noble Iranian nation to the government and the battlefronts are daily increasing, there are a handful of hoarders and ungodly profiteers who refuse to abandon their practices. They spare no thought for either themselves or their country. These people must beware of God's anger and stop disgracing themselves any more before God and His creatures.

E. As for culture, we cannot underestimate this aspect. You know and we know that if a country's culture is deviant, yet if all the institutions and authorities of the country adhere to man's and God's straight path; if they believe in a nation's independence and freedom, divorced from satanic restrictions, and pursue such a path, if the nation in question also adheres to Islam and its valued demands, then it will not be long before cultural deviation overcomes everyone, leading everyone wittingly or unwittingly to deviation. It will not be long before it transforms the future generation to consider deviation as an attractive way of reaching salvation, thus accepting a deviated Islam instead of genuine Islam. Consequently, it does to its country and itself what the country suffered during the dictatorial monarchy, particularly the dark past of 50 years.

The Majlis, the nation, and the committed thinkers must believe this fact and take seriously the question of improving culture, including the improvement of schools, from primary school to university. They must do everything in their power to block the path of deviation. A handful of people is not powerful enough to improve this urgent matter and completely transform it into Islamic and nationwide dimension in the service of the country. All of us are responsible; all of us are answerable to God and his people. At this juncture, when we do have the opportunity, we will not accept any excuse from anyone. All of us must do our best with respect to the vital matter, so that the blood of our young fighting men and the nation's efforts will not be in vain.

3. The country's authorities and officials have repeatedly declared to the region's Islamic governments that the Islamic Republic of Iran, whose content is based on Islamic justice and which is wholeheartedly committed to it, is not allowed to violate others' sanctity and to indulge in oppression and aggression against them. This divine commitment is the basis of Islam and the Islamic Republic.

We have often advised the region's governments and others at every opportunity and have asked them to be faithful to good-neighborliness and Islamic brotherhood for the sake of observing God's and the holy Koran's orders. We assure you that if you take one step toward brotherhood, we will take many steps toward shaking your hand and toward the destruction of the superpowers. We have often reminded them that if the Muslims observe Islamic orders, if they preserve their solidarity, and if they cease their differences and arguing they will be immune to the aggression of the enemies of Islam and that of the world devourers under the banner of "There is no God but Allah": and they will deprive the East and the West of power over the Muslims' beloved lands; because the Muslims' power is stronger, their resources are limitless, and above all God's boundless power is supporting them and the big powers need them. This fact has often been stated and experienced: the supercriminals of the East and the West think of nothing but their satanic interests, of plundering others' property and of dominating them. The superpowers explicitly say: We have interests in the region and must guard our interests and advantages. If they give you $1 in aid they will obtain hundreds of dollars from you. These political comings and goings, arms and military aid are aimed at nothing but consolidating their influence on Islamic and non-Islamic countries.

Whether you and the mass media -- most stations -- make false propaganda or not, whether you close your eyes and ears to clear truth or not, the Aflaqite Saddam and the Iraqi Ba'th Party basically oppose Islam and sow sedition in the region. America took advantage of Saddam's ignorance, pride, and excessive ambition and made him attack Iran. According to America's logic, the defeat of Iraq and Iran and the destruction of both of them, or Iran, was in any case in its interest. The miserable Saddam made his own calculations: In his empty mind he thought of being the gendarme of the region and of being the great Qadisiyah commander.

What he did not realize and will not understand is the power of the great Islam and the selflessness of the self-sacrificing soldiers of Islam: because of this folly he put himself in a trap from which he cannot be saved by any power. We warn the region's governments again not to trouble themselves to save a criminal who would set the region ablaze if he had the opportunity, not to land themselves in more destruction and not to be deceived by the promises made by America and others, since by continuing to help the enemy of Islam, the Iranian nation and the government may face a situation in which we have no interest. Before it is too late, obey Islam and its life-giving orders, save your country from the evil of deceitful powers and know that turning to Islam and peace with the Islamic Republic are in your interest, and that the Iranian Government and nation are better for you than America, Saddam, Egypt, and the other deceitful ones. You must have felt and sensed that the whole power of the region is less than half the power of the deposed and defunct shah, that with the blessing of Islam and the presence of the nation Iran's power today is several times that of the regime, and that as America did not want and could not help the deposed shah in the time of hardship, America will not help you who are less valuable to it than the defunct shah. America and the other powers play with you to preserve their interests in the region. If you are trapped, they will not trouble to save you. [audience chants inaudible slogans]

4. Those in charge of affairs, the Supreme Judicial Council and the headquarters for implementing the imam's decree must endeavor to see quickly to prisons and the condition of prisoners, to make a list of those whose release will not damage the Islamic Republic and who deserve amnesty, and to accelerate their amnesty. They must also decide on the cases of those who must be punished in accordance with Islam, and after implementing God's decree, they must release them if the authorities know that they will not cause any corruption, and they must finally make amnesty and mercy the basis of their procedure. But they must act severely in dealing with the cases of the corrupt people and the corrupt minigroups, unless they repent and it is proved that their repentence is in earnest, in which case they may be released on bail.

5. One of the important issues about which I am worried is the problems of the religious seminaries, particularly such big seminaries as the holy religious seminary in Qom. Let the authoritative ulema and the esteemed teachers, who are the well-wishers of Islam and the Islamic countries, ponder deeply lest protocol and paying heed to numerous buildings for Islam's political and social aims should divert them from the important, original issue of the seminaries and from being engaged in the normal Islamic sciences and particularly Islamic jurisprudence and its outlines in the orthodox manner, and lest their work -- God forbid -- on the outlines and preliminaries should cause them to be diverted from the original aim, that is, the continuation and the development of Islamic sciences, particularly Islamic jurisprudence in accordance with the path of their good predecessors and the eminent shaykhs such as Shaykh at-Ta'ifah and his like -- may God Almighty's mercy be upon them -- and such recent shaykhs as Sahib al-Jawahir and the great Shaykh Ansari -- may God Almighty's mercy be upon them. If Islam were to lose everything -- God forbid -- but if its jurisprudence were to remain in the proper manner as inherited from the great cannonists it would continue along its path, but if Islam were to obtain everything but if -- God forbid -- it were to lose its jurisprudence as laid down by the good predecessors it would not be able to continue the path of right and it would be emasculated.

Though we know that the great authorities, the knowledgeable ulema and the illustrious teachers -- may their bounty continue -- heed this issue, there is a fear lest glittering formalities akin to the sanctifying of materialism should become popular, they might leave their mark on the coming generations, and -- God forbid -- what we fear would then beset the religious seminaries.

It is essential that the gentlemen who are versed in these affairs and who are in charge of such problems should pay heed, should curb extremism and should devote whatever they do to the service of the religious seminaries and to the service of Islam and Islamic sciences, that the jobs in hand should be put right, and that people should beware of extremism and excesses. I beseech God Almighty to grant all success in serving science, the ulema, Islam, and the nation.

6. The point which has been in everyone's mind and which has always been stressed is maintaining solidarity and refraining from division. We all know about the miraculous results of the unity of the nation and, on the other hand, we know what tragedies have befallen Muslims all through the history because of division. The esteemed nation of Iran, which has witnessed both, which has suffered the outcome of division, which by the grace of God has tasted the nectar of unity, and which has seen its miracles from the beginning of the revolution until now, is advised to take care and not to allow filthy evil hands and subservient agents of world oppression to penetrate its holy ranks and stage an uprising in order to create division. Whenever such acts of treason are seen to be committed by persons or groups, the nation should not hesitate and should prevent such action immediately. The country's officials should be informed and such persons should be reported. This is very important to all the nation.

Two groups of people should place more emphasis on this point: One is students, especially university students who should be alert, committed to Islam, and to serving the country. They should observe the behavior and the condition of different groups of students and university staff so that -- God forbid -- these great centers of education and training will not become involved in issues with which they were plagued. May God assist and befriend everyone. The second group is the armed forces personnel: although we are at present being attacked by foreigners and are subjected to the conspiracies of satanic powers, the armed forces should place more importance than before on this issue. All commanders and personnel of the armed forces, Guards Corps, mobilization, tribes, and other military and security forces should pay particular attention to this vital point. If -- God forbid -- these committed and dear levels of people are divided by criminals and conspirators and place themselves as the axis, they can be sure that devils and the great satan will influence them and it will not take long for them to be destroyed. If so, their defeat is inevitable and with their defeat Islam would suffer such a defeat in this country and other regions that might take centuries to put right. Armed brothers, you who are held dear by the nation, you the supporters of Islam and the Islamic Republic, be alert since satans are lying in waiting, and your slightest negligence would cause the greatest tragedy for the nation and Islam. May the merciful and generous God protect us from their evil intentions.

7. My last words are addressed to the presence of the beneficient God:

O God, You blessed us and made us victorious against Your own enemies on 11 February. You took the hand of this oppressed nation and from the steep slopes of corruption and hell in both worlds You took it to the high peaks of Your blessings. You granted eternal honor to this nation which was oppressed during the dictatorial monarchy and made the noble youths of this nation love You and love martyrdom. You fulfilled the prayers of those who keep vigil for us sinners. God Almighty, do not deprive us of Your blessings, help us to please the honor of the world, the Lord of the Age, may our souls be sacrificed for Him. Bless us with the light of Your guidance forever.

God Almighty, bless our warlike youths who with love for You and hoping for Your attention and support boldly attacked the aggressive enemy who suddenly attacked Your people, shed the blood of innocents, pulled down their houses over their heads and in a manner worse than Mongols, did not pity young or old, Arab or Persian. Our youths broke their barriers, fought in an unequal war where one side was armed to the teeth, enjoying the war materiel and weapons, war plans, and endless assistance from the East and the West and the region, whereas the other side were purehearted Muslims, committed lovers of Yours, powerful warriors relying on You, who in every region captured the enemy in large numbers, took equipment from them as booty and crushed the enemy, disgracing and defeating them, and expelled them from the country. Our youths placed no importance on the aid from the East and West. Bless them and help them to achieve the final victory. Place our martyrs alongside the martyrs at the dawn of Islam at the service of the honorable prophet. Place the mothers and fathers of these beloved, who raised them in their bosom and sacrificed them for Islam, in heaven together with other saints. Grant patience to their wives, sisters, brothers, and next of kin. To the nation of Iran which has honored Islam in the world and became a model country, which we hope will shine like the sun on the lands of the East and the West and make the world oppressed victorious over the oppressors, grant power.

Greetings to all crusaders for God through history, from great prophets, imams, and peace seekers especially the last of the prophets and the lord of the descendents of Ahmad and Adam, Mohammad -- peace be upon Him -- and His House, the last of the imams, may our souls be sacrificed for Him. Greetings to 11 February, the day of God and to its creators.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,219

LD141717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Communique No 1,219 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The heroic fighters of Islam who enjoy high morale and who are deployed in fortified positions in a state of complete readiness on all the battle fronts will implement their missions with great strength on all battlefields until they bring Saddam's aggressive, Ba'thist Zionist regime to its knees and achieve the divine goals and objectives of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the past 24 hours, exchange of artillery fire continued in all the Wal Fajr operational zones, being more intense in the Sharhani region. An enemy patrol group which tried to approach the positions of our forces in the Sharhani region was forced to flee as the result of the fire of the fighters of Islam; it sustained losses and casualties.

In the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational zones, the fighting units stationed on the banks of the Arvand Rud opened fire over the enemy positions and concentrations on the other side of the Arvand Rud. As a result, more than 25 Iraqi personnel were killed and a number of machine gun positions, observation posts, and trenches and foxholes of Saddam's forces were set on fire.

Two houses in Abadan yesterday were destroyed as the result of long-range enemy shells and a few places were set on fire.

On the western fronts, the exchange of fire continued; our forces continued to defend the positions under their protection and controlled enemy movements. On those fronts, our forces yesterday discovered and neutralized more than 500 antitank and anti-personnel mines.

In the Marivan region, our forces opened fire over enemy positions in the (Shanon) and (Maru) regions. They destroyed one observation post and a number of trenches and also inflicted casualties on the enemy.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

ARMED FORCES CHIEF INSPECTS KHARK ISLAND

LD141817 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 83

[Text] Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived at Khark Island this morning to inspect the island's military units and oil installations. He was welcomed by military commanders and the commander of the Islamic Guards Corps of the region. After inspecting the oil installations and the military bases of Khark Island, he left the region at noon.

ARMY AIR CORPS COMMANDER ON WAL FAJR OPERATION

LD132131 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Excerpt] In an interview with IRNA today, the commander of the Army Air Corps elaborated on the operations carried out by Army Air Corps personnel in the operational Wal Fajr region. After pointing out that during the current year the selfless pilots of the Army Air Corps have flown more than 30,000 hours in the battle areas of the country, he enlarged on the fruitful effects of the Islamic Revolution on the Army Air Corps. He said: Before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, about 3,000 Americans were employed on maintenance, repair, and training work. Now the committed personnel of the Army Air Corps carry out all this work, so in addition to saving hundreds of millions of dollars in expenses paid out to foreign advisers, we have reached self-sufficiency in this field and our personnel gain more experience and skill every day. We in the Army Air Corps hope to be able to take more effective steps to serve the Islamic homeland.

INTERIOR MINISTER TO FORM TRIBAL HEADQUARTERS

LD132307 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi has issued an order to Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri to form within the Interior Ministry a Tribal Headquarters of Iran to solve the problems, difficulties, and economic and cultural issues of tribes.

The text of the prime minister's order:

In His exalted name. Borther Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, honorable minister of interior:

Because of the role played by the dear tribesmen of the country in guarding the borders and boundaries and protecting the Islamic Revolution, and in view of the shortages and problems suffered by this oppressed stratum of the society under the former regime, and to solve problems and difficulties and to meet the shortages experienced by the brave tribesmen, you are assigned to form headquarters to be named the Tribal Headquarters of Iran, comprised of fully authorized representatives from the Ministries of Interior, Agriculture and Rural Development, Health, Education and Training, Islamic Guidance and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the reconstruction crusade to take appropriate steps with regard to:

1. Studying long-term and fundamental solutions to the problems of tribes and to find ways to enrich their human, cultural, and economic affairs.

2. Making policies and coordinating the steps taken by ministries, organizations, and institutions involved to solve short-term problems of the tribes by forming specific commissions under the supervision of the headquarters.

Obviously, this headquarters simply will take steps to make the policies needed and will coordinate with the organizations involved. All executive affairs will be carried out by appropriate organizations. Ministries, organizations, and institutions of the Islamic Revolution are dutybound to implement all executive affairs in connection with tribes according to the policies set by the Tribal Headquarters of Iran and to present the budget they have allocated regarding tribal affairs only after it has been approved by the headquarters.

The honorable minister of interior is dutybound to implement the necessary coordination after the approval of the headquarters.

[Signed] Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran

MOJAHEDIN SAYS 1,800 PRISONERS KILLED IN JANUARY

NC131626 Paris AFP in English 1620 GMT 13 Feb 83

[Text] Paris, Feb 13 (AFP) -- A total of 1,800 political prisoners were executed in Tehran's Evin Prison in the week January 22 to 28, the left-wing peoples mohajedin movement said in a communique released here today.

Quoting reliable sources inside Iran, the communique said the bodies were transported by lorry to Tehran's Beheht Zahra Prison and buried in secret. Afterward, revolutionary guards closed the cemetery to the public for two days.

The communique quoted cemetery workers as stating that most of the bodies had been mutilated by torture. The revolutionary guards refused to hand the bodies over to relatives who gathered at the cemetery. They only gave back a few "intact" bodies to relatives on payment of the equivalent of $750, the communique said.